

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presented amended and in light of the following discussions is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 is presently active in this case. Claims 1-10 were cancelled by a previous amendment. The present amendment cancels Claims 11-17 without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 11-17 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to an invention that is distinct from the invention as originally claimed. Claim 18 was allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Claims 11-17 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to present claims directed to the subject matter of Claims 11-17 in a divisional application, which shall be subject to the third sentence of 35 U.S.C. § 121.¹

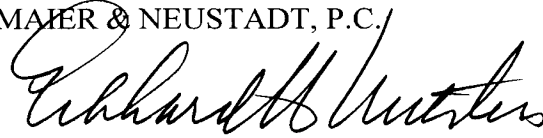
The present amendment is submitted in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which after Final Rejection permits entry of amendments canceling rejected or withdrawn claims. As the present amendment merely cancels withdrawn Claims 11-17, it is respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered.

¹ "A patent issuing on an application with respect to which a requirement for restriction under this section has been made ... shall not be used as a reference ... against a divisional application." See also M.P.E.P. § 804.01.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claim 18 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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